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(b) whether the Government have taken any steps hitherto either to repair the bridge or to build a new bridge?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) The bridge has not completely broken down but is in a bad and dangerous condition. It is in that condition for about two years.

" (b) The bridge work could not be taken up now for want of funds."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" I visited the place and saw the bridge myself. The bridge is completely damaged. But the Hon. Minister says that it is not completely damaged. In view of the fact that so many students have to go to the other side of the bridge to attend the school and also because there is a ration shop on the other side to which the people have to go after crossing the bridge, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter and expedite the construction of the bridge? I want a direct answer from the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" This is a report from the Engineering Department. When the bridge was inspected, perhaps it was not completely broken down. The bridge is within the jurisdiction of the Payyannur major panchayat. If proposals are made by the panchayat, the Government will give necessary help for constructing the bridge."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister told us, Sir, that the bridge had been in that damaged condition for the past two years. Does the Hon. Minister believe that it will be included at least in the Five-year Plan so that repairs to the bridge might be carried out?" 8-50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The proposals must come either from the panchayat board or the district board, and the Government will then give the necessary help. Many bridges and roads are like this in our country."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Does this bridge fall within the jurisdiction of any panchayat, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I have already answered it."

Educational facilities to the children of village officers.

* 847 Q.—SRI Y. AUDINARAYANA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) why the Government have not extended the educational facilities that have been extended to the Non-Gazetted Officers' children to the children of village officers and servants; and

(b) under what category the Government classify the village officers and servants, i.e., as Non-Gazetted Officers or as any other class of servants of the Government?

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THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) On account of financial stringency, Sir.

" (b) They are classified as part-time Government servants."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" Will the Government, Sir, consider the question of extending the same educational facilities to the servants of the co-operative institutions? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The suggestion will be considered. But they are not Government servants, I believe."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, are these village officers who are classified as part-time Government servants free to contest elections? "

(No answer.)

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, the village officers are paid very poor salaries. Will the Government think of giving their children a concession in the matter of school fees at least in the near future? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have already said that it is only on account of financial stringency, we are not able to extend the concession to village officers."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, having extended educational facilities to various classes of public servants who are much better placed in life than these village officers, would the Government seriously think of giving the concession to these poor village officers? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have already answered it."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether they are Government servants? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have already answered it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that they are treated as part-time Government servants, will the Government at least give them part concession? " (Laughter.)

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know whether the Government would recognize the succession principle in the case of these village officers, and whether the Government would give them fee concessions by some other method? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" No doubt, Sir, free education has got to be given to children up to 14 years of age according to the Constitution. But financial conditions prevent the Government from applying this principle."

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SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Sir, have the Government estimated the amount of loss that would be incurred by them if the concession is to be extended to the children of village officers also?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have not got the figures here."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, is not the Hon. Minister aware that the village accountants are classified as Government servants though not the headmen and the peons?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" They have been defined as part-time Government servants."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" విద్యాశాఖా మంత్రిగారు అన్నింటికిని ప్రభుత్వానికి financial stringency అనే సాకు ప్రజలమీద వేస్తూవున్నట్లయితే, దేశములోవున్న వారందరికిని విద్య ఎట్లా వస్తుందండి?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" ఇది ప్రభుత్వానికి, ప్రజలకు సంబంధించిన ఆర్థిక విషయం."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there is only one village officer per village and the number of villages is also not much, the financial commitment may not be a big drain upon our total expenditure to be incurred from the education budget. So, I would request the Government of Madras to reconsider their decision. Will the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision to grant educational concessions to the children of these village officers also?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" When financial conditions improve, it will be time to reconsider this question along with similar questions."

Compensation for taking over temple tanks for fish culture.

* 848 Q.—SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have taken up some temple tanks for fish culture; and

(b) if so how many and whether the Government are paying any compensation to the temple authorities?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Twelve temple tanks have been taken over by the Fisheries Department. Compensation is being paid to the temple authorities in respect of all the tanks except six. In these excepted cases, the temple authorities preferred to hand them over without payment of compensation."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" Is fish considered a vegetable (laughter) or a non-vegetable?"

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Take it as a vegetable."